The second suggestion was to take up immediately the proposed road from Puthiyedathumukku and to locate the motor stand and the checking station at the place where that road met the new municipal road from the present checking station to the Catholic church.

If either of these proposals was accepted by Government, it would go a great way towards relieving the congestion of traffic in the town.

DEWAN'S REPLY:—Mr. Irupooty, I have asked the Commissioner of Police to go and study the question of the location of the checking station and the car stand, in company with the Chief Engineer so that they can see what is the best way of overcoming the inconvenience of which you complain.

49. Medical relief in Tovala taluk.

MR. E RAVI PILLAI CHINNATHAMBIA PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) said that Government had shown themselves abundantly sympathetic towards the people in the matter of medical relief. The recent cholera outbreak provided an occasion for them to show this sympathy in an unmistakable manner.

The dispensary at Bhootapandy was a great blessing to the villagers of the neighbourhood. The institution could be made still more useful if medicines were dispensed in the morning at Bhoothapandy and in the evening at Azhakiapandiapuram. The pressure of work at Bhootapandi was not so heavy as to make the proposal impracticable. Besides, Azhakiapandiapuram had a large population and being situated close to the hills, was affected by malaria and other diseases. It might probably be said against the proposal that there was a Salvation Army hospital near Azhakiapandiapuram. But there was the circumstance that no medicines were given free in that institution; and the people were too poor to pay for the medical aid they wanted.

The medical officer at Bhootapandy might also be directed to engage himself in some kind of propaganda work in matters relating to public health. The experiences of the doctors during the recent cholera epidemic should have shown how much the ignorance of the people in simple matters of health and sanitation handicapped their work.

Arrangements might also be made for entrusting some specifics for cholera to the Proverthicars, with instructions to distribute them free to the people in cases of urgent necessity. This was meant to help the people, whenever they could not find time to call in doctors.

The caste-Hindu inhabitants of Tovala were drawing their drinking water from channels and tanks. There were no good wells in these regions. It needed no comment for Government to see how easily the water in the channels and tanks got infected in seasons of epidemics. Arrangements might therefore be made for sinking at least one well in each major village. If Government did not find it feasible to meet the whole cost of these wells, it would do if they offered to bear a portion of the cost.

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DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eravi Pillai Chinnathambia Pillai, your proposal to convert a whole-time dispensary at Bhoothapandy into a morning dispensary at Bhoothapandy and an evening dispensary at Azhakiapandiapuram was not recommended by the Administrative Board for what in the eyes of the Government are good and sufficient reasons. Whether a provision should be made for a dispensary either at Aramboly, Puthucadai or Azhakiapandiapuram is now engaging the attention of the Administrative Board and, when a conclusion is come to, the matter will be reported to the Government and such action as is necessary will be taken.

In regard to the propaganda work to be done by the Medical Officer at Bhoothapandy, this too, I shall refer to the Administrative Board for examination.

As to the distribution of medicines by Proverthikars, you ask that the Government may supply Proverthikars with cholera specifics with instructions to distribute them among people when needed. This has already been done some months back.

Your last point is about the sinking of wells in the caste-Hindu villages of Nanjanad. I shall ask the Sanitary Commissioner to go into the matter and submit recommendations to the Government.

50. Public health with special reference to outbreak of epidemics in the rural parts of the Kalkulam taluk.

Mr. K. M. KESAVAN TAMPI (*Member, Kalkulam taluk, Group II*) said that there was an inseparable connection between the standard of public health in a country and the welfare of its people. The demands of public health administration formed the first claim upon the public exchequer. So far as Travancore was concerned, there were two departments which were responsible for the maintenance of public health, one which devoted itself to preventive measures and the other which devoted itself to remedial measures. Of this, the first, *viz.*, the Sanitary Department, was organised in 1070. The functions of the department, as conceived then, were:

(1) "to superintend and check the vital statistics throughout the district;

(2) " to attend to the sanitation of all parts of the district where the Town Improvement Regulation is not in force;

(3) "to study and report on the state of public health within the district;

(4) " to superintend the vaccination work;

(5) " to be a sort of travelling dispensary, actually conveying medical aid to the door of the villagers ".

The above was the *ipsissima verba* of the Government order constituting the department. These functions were reduced one by one with the lapse of time till at the present time they had dwindled into two simple things, the performance of vaccination and the supervision of conservancy stations.

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